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Committee on Science and Technology
Second session
Dakar, 1-3 December 1998
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The provisional agenda presented for adoption is as follows:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of vice-chairpersons.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Benchmarks and indicators.

5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies.

6. Report on the work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology.

7. Traditional knowledge.

8. Future work programme of the Committee.

9. Roster of independent experts.

10. Creation, if necessary, of an ad hoc panel or panels.

11. Other matters.

12. Report of the session.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

2. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) (decision 15/COP.1), "(t)he Committee shall adopt a programme of work, which should include estimates regarding its financial implications. The programme of work shall be subject to approval by the Conference of the Parties."

Venue

3. Article 24, paragraph 1 of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) provides that the Committee on Science and Technology shall meet "in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties." The second session of the CST will therefore meet at Méridien Conference Centre, Dakar, during the second session of the Conference of the Parties. Tentatively, the Committee has been scheduled to meet from 1 to 3 December 1998.

Participants

4. Article 24, paragraph 1 of the CCD provides that the CST "shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties." Consistent with the provisions of article 22, paragraph 7, it is anticipated that sessions of the CST will be open to observers in accordance with the rules of procedure.

Documentation

5. Lists of the documents prepared for the Committee's first and second sessions are contained in annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the secretariat's World Wide Web site at the following address on the Internet: <http://www.unccd.ch>.

1. Opening of the session

6. In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (decision 1/COP.1), the Chairperson of the CST shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. This will occur at the opening meeting of the COP on 30 November 1998. The second session of the CST will then be opened on 1 December by the Chairperson of the CST.

2. Election of vice-chairpersons

7. In accordance with paragraph 6 of the terms of reference of the CST, the CST shall elect its own Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur. Paragraph 6 of the terms of reference provides: "The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms."

3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

8. The CST will have before it the above provisional agenda for adoption. It has been prepared taking into consideration comments of Parties during the first session of the CST and submissions received subsequently, in accordance with the decision 16/COP.1. A tentative schedule of work is to be found in annex II.

New recommendations

9. Provision has been made in the CST schedule of the work for the drafting of necessary reports following discussion of the work of the CST during the morning of Thursday 3 December 1998. Any new recommendations could also be dealt with at the plenary of the COP on 4 December 1998.

4. Benchmarks and indicators

10. In accordance with decision 22/COP.1, the ad hoc panel on benchmarks and indicators, established by the Conference of the Parties, met in Beijing from 20 to 22 May 1998. Some of the participants in the informal open-ended process and members of the ad hoc panel are scheduled to meet in Geneva in early September 1998. In accordance with that decision, the panel is to act as a steering committee to the informal open-ended consultative process established by the interim secretariat with decision 9/12 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification (INCD) and continued pursuant to decision 10/9 of the INCD. The task of the informal process is to review the methodology for impact indicators contained in document ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1, and to determine how the methodology could be carried out and whether it could be recommended for use to the Conference of the Parties. The report of the ad hoc panel contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3 and Add.1 will be before the Conference of the Parties. The COP will be invited to consider that report, adopt any appropriate recommendation to the COP and consider reappointing the panel.

5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks

11. A note by the secretariat on the arrangements it undertook with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the initiation of the work mandated by article 25 of the CCD and decision 23/COP.1 will be before the CST and contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2. In addition, an interim report by UNEP, on behalf of a consortium of institutions and organizations designated to carry out the first phase of work on the survey and evaluation of existing networks will be before the CST for its review and any direction the CST wishes to recommend to the COP to give to UNEP and consortium members: document ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2/Add.1. The CST will be invited to consider recommending giving direction to UNEP and consortium members, and also to begin its consideration of the methodology to be followed for phases 2 and 3 of this work.

6. Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology

12. The COP, by its decision 21/COP.1, requested the secretariat to report to the second session with a consolidated report of information contained in documents A/AC.241/67 and ICCD/COP(1)/CST/4. That report will be before the Conference of the Parties as document ICCD/COP(2)/CST/4 for its consideration. In accordance with the previous decision of the COP, the report is also being made available in electronic version.

7. Traditional knowledge

13. By decision 20/COP.1, the Conference of the Parties requested that the CST allocate a full additional day, with the participation of international, regional, subregional, non-governmental and community-based organizations to allow for a review of the report of the secretariat on traditional knowledge, discussion of the topic and conclusions and recommendations to be reached. The CST will have before it a synthesis prepared by the secretariat based on information submitted by Parties and observers respecting the use of traditional knowledge and technology, knowledge, know-how and practices: document ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5. The secretariat will also submit a report it has prepared based on a survey of such issues in selected countries of the African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean regions. This latter report, contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5/Add.1, will not purport to be global or comprehensive in nature, but represents an attempt to identify certain traditional knowledge which could be useable in countries or regions other than those from which the knowledge is drawn.

8. Future work programme of the Committee

14. In accordance with decision 16/COP.1, the secretariat solicited topics for inclusion on the agenda for the second session of the Conference of the Parties. Submissions were received from five Parties. One Party dealt with methodology, and suggested that the secretariat be asked to compile a list of issues to be considered at subsequent sessions of the CST to enhance the ability of Parties to prepare for such sessions. Topics suggested by the Parties making submissions included: development of the methodology for assessment and mapping of desertification for better coordination of all scientific and practical activities; creation, active and effective functioning of regional desertification training centres for capacity-building at the local level to carry out certain practical measures in critical regions; expansion of cooperation on research activities; exchange of information and knowledge on scientific results and practical measures; rainwater harvesting schemes - technical, economic and social issues; afforestation and reforestation schemes - technical and community incentives; drought preparedness measures - national and local.

15. Topics suggested also included: examination of the possibilities of cooperation between the Framework Convention on Climate Change (capacity-building, collection and exchange of information); examination of the interface between local and traditional knowledge and modern techniques in the struggle against desertification; partnership as a method of combating desertification (regional and/or international framework cooperation); transfer of technology for the protection of ecosystems degraded by desertification, retention and use of water, with particular reference to: (i) technology for the collection, retention and use of water, (ii) use of alternative sources of energy, (iii) management of degraded ecosystems in hydrographic basins.

16. It was also suggested that topics could include: water and wind erosion in arid lands (type of materials and techniques used, cost, efficiency, possibility of application in other regions); creation of a uniform geo-information system on grasslands (GIS); creation of methods and criteria of ecological assessments of the desertification processes; creation of a uniform system of early drought warning in selected regions; publication of a manual on technologies of fertility renewal of degraded land.

17. The CST may wish to group these topics in two categories, institutional and substantive, in considering its future work programme and devote time to both clusters of issues to be selected in advance, to allow Parties to prepare for sessions devoted to specific items.

18. The CST may wish to consider what recommendation to give to the COP with respect to the future work programme of the CST, and may also wish to make recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the CST in carrying out its responsibilities outlined in its terms of reference during the inter-sessional period.

9. Roster of independent experts

19. Under the provisions of article 24, paragraph 2 of the Convention, the COP is to establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. Consistent with decision 18/COP.1, the secretariat has maintained the roster, and its updated form is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/10. The CST may wish to review the roster, and make recommendations to the COP respecting the composition of the roster and respecting any guidance the COP may wish to give to the secretariat as to the appropriate format for it.

10. Creation, if necessary, of an ad hoc panel or panels

20. Under the provisions of article 24, paragraph 3 of the Convention, the COP may, as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the CST, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in relevant fields of science and technology. The CST may wish to consider recommending to the COP the establishment of any ad hoc panels which may be required, including the reappointment of the panel on benchmarks and indicators the COP established at its first session.

11. Other matters

21. The CST may wish to consider recommending to the COP whether and how any other inter-sessional work in the domain of science and technology should be undertaken.

12. Report of the session

22. A draft report on the session will be prepared for adoption at the final session. The CST is invited to complete the final report after the session, with the assistance of the secretariat and under the guidance of the Chairperson.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Second session

ICCD/COP(2)/CST/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2/Add.1	Supplementary report on survey and evaluation of existing networks
ICCD/COP(2)CST/3	Benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3/Add.1	Supplementary report on work on benchmarks and indicators: report of ad hoc panel
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/4	Report on the work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5	Traditional knowledge
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5/Add.1	Supplementary report on traditional knowledge

First session

ICCD/COP(1)/CST/1	Adoption of agenda and organization of work of the CST
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/2	Survey and evaluation of existing networks
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/2/Add.1	Supplementary report on survey and evaluation of existing networks
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3	Report on work on benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1	Supplementary report on work on benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/4	Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/5	Reports on modalities and timing of future work on inventories of research and traditional knowledge; establishment of research priorities

Annex II

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK FOR THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Tuesday 1 December 1998		
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
CST	Organization of work (ICCD/COP(2)/CST/1) - Review of outstanding items - Establishment of roster of experts (ICCD/COP(2)/11) - Survey and evaluation (ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2 and Add.1)	- Benchmarks and indicators (ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3 and Add.1) - Bodies doing work of relevance to CST (ICCD/COP(2)/CST/4)
Wednesday 2 December 1998		
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
CST	- Traditional knowledge (ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5 and Add.1)	- Traditional knowledge (ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5 and Add.1)
Thursday 3 December 1998		
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
CST	- Programme of work for CST - Drafting of recommendations to COP	- Adoption of recommendations to COP
Friday 4 December 1998		
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	- Report of CST	